

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets for FIGURES 2-4 are attached herewith. The boxes 22, 24, 32, 40, 42, and 44, previously unlabeled, have been labeled in accordance with the specification.

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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 10, 2003. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claim 1-19 and 21-40.

Claim 20 was objected to on the basis of a minor informality. As indicated above, Claim 20 has been amended to recite steps "(e)", "(f)", and "(g)" in place of steps "(a)", "(b)", and "(c)." Although the steps in Claim 20 have been relabeled, it should be understood that the labels given to the steps in Claim 20 (and the steps in Claim 17) do not necessarily imply that the steps must be performed in the order as labeled. These steps are labeled solely for the convenience of the reader. Applicants also emphasize that the foregoing amendment of Claim 20 does not narrow the scope of the claim and is not needed for purposes of patentability. Accordingly, Claim 20 has the same scope and range of equivalents as it had when originally presented.

As to the specification, applicants have amended the abstract to shorten its length. No new matter has been added.

As to the drawings, applicants have amended FIGURES 2-4 to include text labels in the illustrated boxes, as requested by the Examiner. Again, no new matter has been added.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants believe that Claims 1-40 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a notice of allowance at an early date. Should any issues or concerns remain, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to **Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: October 2, 2003



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Abstract of the Disclosure

A system for use in programming and diagnostics of electronic devices (32) in a vehicle includes a connector jack (36) having a plurality of electrical connection sites configured for electrical connection to the electronic devices (32) in the vehicle. A shorting plug (38) configured to removably engage the connector jack (36) interconnects the plurality of electrical connection sites to form [[the]] a data communication bus ~~when the shorting plug (38) is engaged with the connector jack (36)~~. An electronics module (50) configured to removably engage the connector jack (36) in place of the shorting plug includes a plurality of switching units (56) that, when set in a closed state, electrically interconnect each of the electronic devices (32) to form the data communication bus. Each switching unit (56a,...,56g) in the electronics module (50) is ~~operable selectively and independently from the other switching units so that one or more of the switching units (56a,...,56g) may be set in an open state operable~~ to electrically disconnect an electronic device (32) from the data communication bus. ~~Methods for use in, especially for~~ programming and diagnostics of the electronic devices (32) in [[a]] the vehicle ~~include selectively setting one or more of the switching units (56) in an open state to electrically disconnect electronic devices from the data communication bus~~.